

North-Central *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group Blue

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Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: 5) Fund infrastructure projects on speculation.

Priority response #2 (votes: 5) Change tax structure/fees.

Priority response #3 (votes: 4) Change state legislation regarding tax regulations; direct relief/abatement options for business.

Priority response #4 (votes: 4) Encourage regional cooperation/programs (shared efficiencies in local government).

Priority response #5 (votes: 4) Create high-risk “Mission Impossible Fund” for high-risk startups.

Priority response #6 (votes: 3) Better cooperation between state/municipalities regarding shared revenue.

Priority response #7 (votes: 3) Health care reform.

Priority response #8 (votes: 3) Maintain small manufacturing base.

Priority response #9 (votes: 2) Change development zone tax credits (easier to get, not targeted).

Priority response #10 (votes:)

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Fund infrastructure projects on “spec” basis.

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

*For industrial/business parks and incubators: if we want to fund roads, utilities, structures on speculation the state needs to:

- identify stressed area
- take out project-specific language—make site specific
- study what is there to build upon
- TIF towns
- create new incentives by regional planning and cooperation to create investment by savings and efficiencies
- Go back to past studies and implement good ideas
- create a private business investment pool
- develop criteria for funding

Priority Issue #2 Change tax structure/fees.

- *Evaluate other states.
- *Look at our own—evaluate.
- *Junk current exemptions and review system.
- *Start over.
- *Look at “wants vs. Needs” and prioritize.
- *Streamline government.
- *Merge municipalities.
- *Create a set of economic interest clusters.
- *Create more private revenue.
- *Bring more federal money to Wisconsin.
- *Review some legislative council committee findings.
- *Close some University of Wisconsin campuses.

Priority Issue #3 Change state legislation regarding tax regulations; direct relief/abatement options for business.

*Change the law.

Priority Issue #4 Encourage regional cooperation/programs (shared efficiencies in local government).

*Mandate some of it—force the issue.

*Merge municipalities.

*Regional focus on cooperative funding.

*Regional project that will share tax base.

*Defined names for interest zones.

Priority Issue #5 Create a high-risk “Mission Impossible Fund” for high risk start ups.

*Need seed money.

*Make revolving loans.

*Toll tax.

*Take equity position.

*Performance standards need to be relaxed, except plan for all the start ups to fail.